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HOUSE MEMORIAL 95

51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2013

INTRODUCED BY

Antonio "Moe" Maestas

A MEMORIAL

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR DIVERSE CURRICULA IN NEW MEXICO SCHOOLS,
INCLUDING SPECIFIC BOOKS THAT EMBODY THE SPIRIT OF DIVERSITY
AND ACCEPTANCE.

WHEREAS, New Mexico's neighboring state of Arizona in 2011 approved legislation that forced the Tucson unified school district to suspend its Mexican American studies program in 2012; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the suspension, seven books that embody the spirit of diversity, tolerance and acceptance were effectively banned by being moved from classrooms to the school district's storage facility; and

WHEREAS, the seven books are as follows: *Occupied America: A History of Chicanos*, by Rodolfo Acuna; *500 Years of Chicano History in Pictures*, edited by Elizabeth Martinez;

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1 *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, by Paulo Freire; *Rethinking*
2 *Columbus: The Next 500 Years*, by Bill Bigelow; *Critical Race*
3 *Theory*, by Richard Delgado; *Message to Aztlan*, by Rodolfo
4 "Corky" Gonzales; and *Chicano!: The History of the Mexican*
5 *American Civil Rights Movement*, by F. Arturo Rosales; and

6 WHEREAS, *Occupied America: A History of Chicanos*, written
7 by Rodolfo Acuna, serves as an ideal foundation for
8 understanding and analyzing Chicano history, while emphasizing
9 the importance of not only taking pride in one's cultural
10 history, but also increasing cultural awareness and creating a
11 legacy of Chicanos who contribute to the American landscape;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, *500 Years of Chicano History in Pictures*, edited
14 by Elizabeth Martinez, examines United States history from the
15 Mexican American perspective; and

16 WHEREAS, *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, by Paulo Freire, has
17 helped to empower the oppressed through liberation and self-
18 achievement; and

19 WHEREAS, *Rethinking Columbus: The Next 500 Years*, by Bill
20 Bigelow, has changed the way schools teach about the discovery
21 of America, creating a deeper understanding of history from
22 1492 to the present; and

23 WHEREAS, *Critical Race Theory*, by Richard Delgado, seeks
24 to explore racial dynamics in the ever-evolving multicultural
25 American landscape; and

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1 WHEREAS, *Message to Aztlan*, by Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales,
2 famed Chicano activist, shares a compilation of his poems; and

3 WHEREAS, *Chicano!: The History of the Mexican American*
4 *Civil Rights Movement*, by F. Arturo Rosales, recounts the
5 struggle for Mexican Americans to secure and protect their
6 civil rights; and

7 WHEREAS, New Mexico embraces and is proud of its rich
8 cultural heritage and diversity; and

9 WHEREAS, it is essential that New Mexico's students learn
10 to be tolerant, accepting and open to cultural differences and
11 perspectives; and

12 WHEREAS, New Mexico's school curricula should reflect the
13 spirit of New Mexico, a spirit of acceptance and a celebration
14 of different cultures and beliefs; and

15 WHEREAS, New Mexicans are encouraged to read all books
16 that celebrate diversity; and

17 WHEREAS, New Mexico is not Arizona;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
19 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that support be
20 expressed for these books and any other books that encourage
21 New Mexicans to understand their cultural history while
22 empowering a generation of youth who are proud of their
23 heritage and ready to contribute to the rapidly evolving
24 American landscape; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

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1 transmitted to the governor of the state of New Mexico, the
2 public education department and the governor of the state of
3 Arizona.

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